Mississippi Development Authority P.O. Box 849 Jackson, MS 39205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry R. Vance, 601-359-3041

Date: October 8, 2002

MDA CO-SPONSORS BUSINESS PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE IN MERIDIAN

Jackson, Miss. – The Mississippi Development Authority's Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, will co-sponsor a Business Procurement Opportunities Conference on Thursday, October 10, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The event will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel Convention Center in Meridian, Mississippi.

This day-long event, part of the "Building New Partnerships" Conference Series, is being organized to help minority-owned, women-owned and small business enterprises learn more about doing business with the local, state and federal government and other prime contractors. It is part of an ongoing series of training and development workshops sponsored by MBED targeting the state's minority and women-owned business community.

State and federal procurement officials will be available throughout the day to discuss upcoming contract opportunities and other valuable information about their respective agencies' procurement and purchasing processes.

Special guest speakers include: The Honorable Thad Cochran, U.S. Senate, Ronald N. Langston, National Director, and Robert M. Henderson, Regional Director, both with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, and Gennie Lacy Jones, Division Director, MBED.

For more information or to register, contact Joycie Lenoir with MBED at (601) 359-2904.

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